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d/OPS FILE
cc : B, C, D
c/c RD

15 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

ATTENTION: Chief, Classification Review Division

FROM: [REDACTED]
Chief, Operations Branch

SUBJECT: Discussion with Mr. Alan Thompson at NARS Re
[REDACTED] Codeword Material

1. On the above date C/CRD/OPS and C/CRD/INTEL visited Alan Thompson, Director, Records Declassification Division at NARS, at the latter's invitation. The reason for the invitation was to discuss some codeword material that had been uncovered in U.S. Army records being reviewed for declassification at NARS. This material contains the codeword [REDACTED] and, according to several memoranda dated in July 1954 from the Joint Subsidiary Plans Division, this codeword was for use on material related to military support of CIA activities. Specific references were made to supporting the Office of Policy Coordination. It was noted in these memoranda that the codeword [REDACTED] itself was not considered classified, but that the significance of its meaning as a codeword was. The question Mr. Thompson raised was what guidance he should give his NARS people and the military people on how to handle [REDACTED] material when they encounter it. Mr. Thompson pointed out that his people had chanced on the true meaning of [REDACTED] and that there was no way of knowing how much of this material had already been processed and possibly declassified before they learned of the meaning of the codeword. (C)

2. Based only on the four or five documents available with the [REDACTED] slug, it was impossible to get any feeling for the nature of the information or type of material that will be found containing this codeword. While it appears possible, if not probable, that we would want to have all [REDACTED] material referred to us for review before declassification, it would be best to make that decision after we have reviewed a representative sampling of [REDACTED] material. Mr. Thompson checked with his people and they could come up with only one other document containing the codeword [REDACTED]. It involved a very sensitive matter dealing with [REDACTED] period. Agreement was reached for NARS to get a sampling of [REDACTED] material for our review. We will call Ms. Joanne Williamson, Chief/Civilian Records Declassification Branch, to make arrangements to review a sampling of this material. (C)

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3. Another question raised by Mr. Thompson concerned the possibility of our sensitizing NARS to types of material or indicators which could alert them that Agency equities are involved. The point was discussed but the conclusion reached that there does not appear much we can do in this regard. This was based on our experience in trying to get internal Agency regulatory issuances concerning old records; on compartmentation as practiced in the Agency since its inception; and the large number of independent files and record groups created and maintained in the Agency. While our answer to Mr. Thompson was not very positive or encouraging, we should give some thought to the problem and just possibly we might find some way to help them. As Mr. Thompson said, by the time NARS has recognized a problem, there is no telling how much material has already slipped by and may have been improperly released. (C)

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